

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.MEDICAL OFFICER'S REPORT

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The following particulars relate to the year 1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Clerk: Part time.

Medical Officer: Part time.

F. Metcalfe, Cert.R.S.I., M.S.I.A. Sanitary Inspector.

SECTION AStatistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area (in acres)	...	...	...	72,000 (approx)
R.G's estimate of residential population (mid 1939)	...	...	...	12,820
Number of inhabited houses (end of 1939)				3,516
Rateable Value	...	...	...	52,184
Sum represented by penny rate			...	£225

Extracts from the vital Statistics of the year.

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>Male.</u>	<u>Female.</u>	
<u>Live Births</u>	210	106	104	Birth Rate per 1000
Legitimate	194	98	96	of the population
Illegitimate	16	8	8	16.28.
<u>Still Births</u>	8	3	5	Rate per 1,000 of
Legitimate	8	3	5	all births 38.09.
Illegitimate	nil	nil	nil	
<u>Deaths.</u>	209	108	101	Death Rate per 1,000
				of the population
				16.28.

Deaths from puerperal causes:

(Headings from the R.G's short list)

No. 29. Puerperal Sepsis, Nil

No. 30. Other Puerperal causes, 1

Death Rate of Infants under 1 year of age.

All Infants per 1,000 live births	...	...	61.9
Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate live births			61.85
Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births	...	...	62.5
Deaths from cancer (all ages)	...	...	20
Deaths from Measles (all ages)	...	...	nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages)	...	...	nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	...	...	1

SECTION B

- Public Health Staff - See the beginning of the Report.
- Laboratory Facilities - as in previous years.
60 Swabs were sent for the diagnosis of Diphtheria. 13 were positive and 47 negative
One specimen of blood sent for the diagnosis of Typhoid Fever was negative.
Five sputa for the detection of Tuberculosis were returned 2 positive and three negative.
There was 1 negative Wassermann reaction.
 - Ambulance Facilities. As in previous years, and satisfactory.

- (c) Nursing in the Home. As in previous years and not under the control of the Council.
- (d) Clinics and Treatment Centres. As in previous years, under the control of the Nursing Association of the County Council.
- (e) Hospitals. - as in previous years.

SECTIONS C.D. & E.

See the Sanitary Inspector's accompanying report.

SECTION F.

Prevalence of and control over infectious and other diseases.

The principle epidemic diseases were Diphtheria and Scarlet Fever, the former a prolongation from the previous year. Dr. Goldie from the Emergency Laboratory examined many Swabs of children and by the end of the first quarter the epidemic had abated, although during this time it had spread from Sowerby to Thirsk.

All the cases were treated in hospital, 17 in all. Eleven cases of Scarlet Fever were notified and all the cases were treated in hospital.

The disease was widespread throughout the year and did not assume epidemic form.

One case of Cerebro-Spinal Fever was notified and two cases of Acute Poliomyelitis.

There were no deaths.

44 cases of measles and 8 of Pneumonia were notified.

No school had to be closed during the year.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES DURING THE YEAR 1940.

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases notified.</u>	<u>Cases admitted to Hospital.</u>	<u>Total Deaths.</u>
Scarlet Fever	11	11	nil
Diphtheria	17	17	nil
Pneumonia	8	nil	1
Erysipelas	3	nil	nil
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	1	nil
Acute Poliomyelitis	2	2	nil
Puerperal Pyrexia	nil	nil	nil

Age	Scarlet Fever.	Diphtheria.	Pneumonia.	Erysipelas.	Cerebro-Spinal Fever.	Acute Poliomyelitis.	Puerperal Pyrexia.
1 - 2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
2 - 3	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
3 - 4	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
4 - 5	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
5 - 10	6	3	1	1	1	1	1
10 - 15	1	4	1	1	1	1	1
15 - 20	1	3	1	1	1	1	1
20 - 35	3	5	1	1	1	1	1
35 - 65	1	1	3	1	1	1	1
65 & over	1	1	2	1	1	1	1
Total	11	17	7	3	1	2	-

3. Cancer. No action taken.
4. (a) Prevention of Blindness. No action taken.
- (b) Tuberculosis. As in previous years.

Age Periods	New Cases.				Deaths.			
	Respiratory		Non-Respira-		Respiratory		Non-Respira-	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1 - 5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5 - 10	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
10 - 15	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
15 - 25	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
25 - 35	1	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
35 - 45	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-
45 - 55	1	-	-	-	2	-	-	-
55 - 65	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-
Total	3	1	4	1	3	-	-	-

Measles.			
Age	Male	Female	Total
1 - 2	1	-	1
2 - 3	2	1	3
3 - 4	2	1	3
4 - 5	1	2	3
5 - 10	11	12	23
10 - 15	2	3	5
15 - 20	3	-	3
20 - 35	-	3	3
Total	22	22	44

CAUSES OF DEATHS IN THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT - 1940.			
CAUSES OF DEATH		Males	Females
All causes		108	101
Whooping Cough	....	-	-
Diphtheria	....	-	-
Influenza	....	2	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis	....	4	-
Cancer	....	10	11
Diabetes	....	1	2
Cerebral Haemorrhage	....	6	9
Heart Disease	....	38	36
Other Circulatory diseases	....	5	5
Bronchitis	....	4	8
Pneumonia (all forms)	....	7	2
Other Respiratory diseases	....	-	2
Peptic Ulcer	....	1	1
Appendicitis	....	-	-
Other Digestive diseases	....	3	1
Nephritis	....	0	2
Congenital Debility & Pre Birth	....	5	3
Suicide	....	-	-
Other Violence	....	10	4
Other defined diseases	....	11	11
Diseases ill defined or not known	....	1	1
Diarrohea (2 years old or over)	....	-	1
Totals	....	108	101

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies & Gentlemen,
 Your obedient Servant,
 -3- W.G. MacArthur,
 Medical Officer of Health.

THIRSK RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Annual Report of the Sanitary Inspector for the year 1940.

Mr. F. Metcalfe, M.S.I.A., C.R.San.I.,
(Sanitary Inspector and Surveyor
and Certified Meat Inspector).

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I beg to present my report for the year 1940. The main happenings of the year were damage to property by enemy action and the commencement of a Salvage Scheme for the whole of the area, both items causing increased duties.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA..

Water.

There were no extensions of the Council's mains during the year., Supplies were afforded to Military Camps where required. During the year 42 inspections were made of water supplies, and 24 samples of water were submitted for examination. No adverse analyses were found of the Council's water supplies.

Drainage and Sewerage.

The only extension made during the year was the laying of an overflow drain to abate nuisance from a sewage tank near residential property. The sewage tanks and ditches which serve most of the villages had their customary cleaning out so as to prevent nuisance and any fouling of streams so far as possible.

Public Cleansing.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

The Council undertake the collection, removal and disposal of house refuse including the emptying of cess-pools in the two principal parishes and this work is carried out by direct labour.

There are about 500 pail closets in Thirsk and Sowerby which are emptied weekly and the contents disposed of on agricultural land for manurial purposes. The contents of Cess-pools (emptied bi-annually) are similarly disposed of.

The Scavenging also includes the sweeping up after the weekly market.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

Total inspections made during the year.	440
Total re-inspections.	227
Inspection of houses (Public and Housing Acts) Health.	14
Inspections of slaughterhouses (Butchers and other Food Premises).	40
Inspections re emergency slaughterings on farms and other premises.	
Farms and Dairy premises (Milk and Dairies Order)	15
Factories	1
Visits re Petroleum Acts.	2
Inspections of water supplies	42
Inspection of New Buildings in course of erection, and Council's building byelaws:.	21
Inspection of Council Houses.	71
Inspection of movable dwellings.	2
Inspection of Drains, sewers and sewerage.	39
Visits re Scavenging.	32
Visits re overcrowding.	4
Visits re Trade refuse.	20
Inspection of schools.	2
Inspection re infectious diseases.	14

Action re Military Depots.	4
Action re A.R.P.	7
Visits re Fuel & Lighting Order.	2
Number of nuisances dealt with.	42
Number of premises disinfected.	31
Number of Water Samples submitted for Analysis.	24
Visits - Miscellaneous	15
Visits re Salvage.	166
Inspections re War Damage.	258

NEW BUILDINGS.

Council	
Number of/houses built during 1940.	Nil
Number of houses built under Housing Financial Provisions Act 1938.	Nil
Number of houses built by private enterprise.	2
Number of premises provided with improved accommodation (Plans submitted)	
(a) Public Houses.	3
(b) Dwelling Houses.	1

Inspection and Supervision of Food.

Milk Supply.

No complaint was made as to the wholesomeness of the milk produced in the area, other duties and limited staff prevented the pre-war general inspection of cowsheds and Dairies, but premises were visited as conditions allowed, any infringements found were dealt with informally.

Meat and other Foods.

In the early part of the year the slaughtering of all animals for food was transferred to the Government Slaughterhouse at Northallerton, where I attended by arrangements for some months, one visit being made each week as other duties allowed, for the inspection of meat.

The following carcasses were inspected during the year:-

Cattle 83, Calves 23, Sheep 197, Pigs 142.

Other Foods. - Foods other than meat were kept under supervision as far as possible.

Salvage.

In the early part of the year the Council commenced their Salvage Scheme for the whole of the area, one paper baling press was purchased and additional sheds provided for baling and storage.

In Thirsk and Sowerby the collection of Salvage was carried out along with ordinary Scavenging duties, and as such work entailed much extra 'carries' for the limited scavenging staff, a system of bonus was introduced, whereby the men were paid a percentage sum of the monthly sales - this system did much to keep the men's enthusiasm on the job and to "look for" salvage.

To encourage the local shop-keepers to save salvage, a free collection was made of trade waste, providing salvageable material was kept separate from general sweepings etc.

For collections outside the Scavenging area, special house to house calls were arranged at three monthly intervals, and Motor haulage hired as required.

A total of 211 tons of Salvage was collected during the year comprising the following materials:-

	Tons.	Cwts.	Qrs.	Lbs.
Paper	77	18	-	-
Scrap	85	3	2	-
Tins	34	16	2	-
Aluminium		4	2	-
Copper		2	1	14
Brass		7	3	-
Lead		6	-	-
Rags	5	15	3	-
Bottles & Jars	4	18	-	-
Bones	1	9	1	60
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TOTAL	211	1	2	84

A.R.P. Mortuary.

This was provided during the year by the conversion of disused slaughterhouse premises.

War Damage.

During the latter part of the year premises in Thirsk were damaged by enemy action, only slight damage was caused at some of the houses, namely:- broken glass, damaged woodwork, and displaced roof coverings, but in other cases the damage was more extensive requiring roofs to be stripped and replaced, fallen or loose ceilings to be renewed, besides the repair or renewal of doors and window frames etc.

Temporary first aid repairs were carried out immediately by the employment of all local tradesmen who then continued with the more permanent repairs.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

F. METCALFE,

Sanitary Inspector and
Surveyor.